



County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Social Services

Bryce Yokomizo
Director

April 18, 2002

TO: Each Supervisor *ms*
FROM: *Bryce Yokomizo*
Bryce Yokomizo, Director

SUBJECT: HOMELESS COURT PROGRAM

This is in response to your Board motion of February 19, 2002, to meet with members of the Los Angeles Superior Homeless Court and other public and private agencies to coordinate referral-based and follow-up programs for individuals who qualify for Homeless Court.

As previously reported to your Board, we have worked with Public Counsel to develop a process for referring potentially eligible participants in the General Relief Opportunities for Work (GROW) program to the Homeless Court program to assist them in clearing unresolved traffic or low-grade misdemeanor citations and warrants received in Los Angeles County. Because of its large General Relief caseload and proximity to the Court, City Attorney's office and Public Counsel, the Metro Special District was selected by Public Counsel as the DPSS pilot site. Staff training, conducted by Public Counsel representatives, was held at the Metro Special District office in September 2001; the pilot project was implemented in October 2001 and is ongoing.

While the Homeless Court program is a valuable resource for qualified GROW participants, the number of referrals has been small. This is largely based upon the program's eligibility criteria as they relate to the General Relief population. These requirements, which have been developed by the Office of the City Attorney and the Los Angeles Superior Homeless Court in cooperation with Public Counsel, include participation in a rehabilitative program for a minimum of 90 continuous days, not having previous felony warrants and not having received any new citations within six months of the referral date.

Concurrently, DPSS is participating in the planning efforts to expand the Homeless Court program. In March 2002, we participated in a meeting that included Judge Tynan and representatives from the Superior Court, Public Counsel, Sheriff's Department, the Department of Mental Health and the Midnight Mission. DPSS will continue to participate in and support further planning efforts.

BY:mg

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Public Counsel

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